

## **REMARKS**

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant seeks reconsideration of the application. In this response, Claims 6 and 20 are canceled, Claims 1, 10 and 16 are amended and no claims are added. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 and 7-19 are pending.

### **I. Objection to the Drawings**

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings because Figure 3 is missing reference number 320. This matter is believed to be addressed by the amended Figure 3 submitted herewith (replacement sheet). It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

### **II. Objection to the Specification**

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the specification for various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to address the Examiner's concerns. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

### **III. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 6, 7 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in this response, Applicant amends Claim 1 to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable Claim 6, which has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-9 are allowable.

Additionally, in this response, Applicant amends Claim 10 such that it is substantially commensurate in scope with the amended Claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 10 and its dependent Claims 11-15 are allowable.

Furthermore, in this response, Applicant amends Claim 16 to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable Claim 20, which has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 16 and its dependent Claims 17-19 are allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

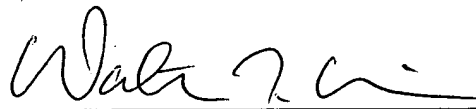
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Dated: February 25, 2004

By:

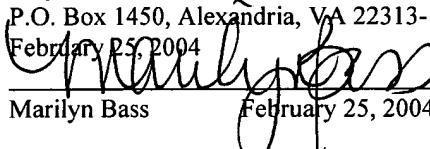
  
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#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

February 25, 2004

  
Marilyn Bass

February 25, 2004

Attachment: Figures